

Dr. Burgess Weekly Video Address September 23, 2016
“POTUS Internet Giveaway”

Hello, this is your Congressman Michael Burgess.

As you may know, on September 30th, President Obama is set to hand over the United States oversight of basic Internet functions to an international consortium.

This international entity could increase the influence of authoritarian regimes and global corporations over these Internet functions and diminish the influence of the United States.

Countries like China, countries like Russia, countries like Iran that do not give their own people the right to speak freely deserve no say in what Americans can say and do on the Internet.

Once the United States government surrenders the oversight of the Internet Assigned Number Authority functions, the free speech protections of the First Amendment will no longer be supported by United States stewardship.

Because of the United States oversight, people around the world have benefitted from our First Amendment rights and the freedom on which our country was founded.

In addition to controlling America's freedom on the internet, there will be no saying just how harmful the lack of enforcement against bad actors will be on small businesses, many of whom depend on copyright and patent protections.

The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers or ICANN already has a poor track record of enforcing agreements with website

domain name registrars—agreements that typically require registrars to prevent bad actors online.

A decision of this magnitude should not be made without the approval of the people's representatives in Congress.

Senator Cruz has taken action to prevent President Obama's reckless internet giveaway by introducing legislation, the Protecting Internet Freedom Act.

I have joined with our Texas Senator in this fight against irresponsible Administration activities and I co-sponsored Senator Cruz's companion bill in the House of Representatives. I am committed to doing everything in my power to stop this threat to freedom of expression and enterprise.